

3-17-1978

## IU Leaders Debate New Law School vs. Addition

John Fancher  
*Herald Times*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/plager>



Part of the [Legal Biography Commons](#), [Legal Education Commons](#), and the [Legal Profession Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Fancher, John, "IU Leaders Debate New Law School vs. Addition" (1978). *Sheldon Plager (1977-1984)*. Paper 3.  
<http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/plager/3>

This Writing about Dean Sheldon Plager is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Deans at Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sheldon Plager (1977-1984) by an authorized administrator of Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. For more information, please contact [wattn@indiana.edu](mailto:wattn@indiana.edu).



**JEROME HALL LAW LIBRARY**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Maurer School of Law  
Bloomington

# *IU leaders debate new law school vs. addition*

3-17-78

By JOHN FANCHER  
H-T Civic Affairs Editor

INDIANAPOLIS — Money to plan a multi-million dollar development for the Indiana University Law School will be sought, but it's still not decided whether to construct a new building or add onto the old one on the Bloomington campus.

President John W. Ryan told the IU Trustees' Architectural Committee and others Thursday afternoon the Law School faculty favors an addition to and renovation of the present 25-year-old building at the corner of Indiana Avenue and Third Street.

Law School Dean Sheldon Plager told the committee and administrators:

"In terms of time, our needs are quite pressing. We believe the location we have, if imaginatively treated, could provide us additional classrooms, library space, offices and a conference learning center."

The conference learning center to which he referred would provide continuing education for the state's practicing attorneys just as there is continuing education for the state's practicing physicians.

"We have a very undeveloped

continuing education program (for lawyers) in Indiana, and it's something to which both our law schools (at Bloomington and Indianapolis) should respond," President Ryan said.

Plager took the position an addition to the present Bloomington Law School, plus renovation of the existing building, could be done quicker than to construct an entirely new facility.

However, Ray Casati, university architect, said the "time frame" for a new building would be shorter.

His comment was made in answer to questioning by IU Trustee Richard Stoner, who is a member of the Architectural Committee.

Neither Stoner nor Trustee Carolyn Gutman are convinced an addition will serve the long-range needs of the school, better than a new building.

Gutman said, considering the amount of money involved (\$9.7 million estimated for developing the present facility):

"We ought to weigh this carefully and not make a quick decision.

"I appreciate the faculty input and would not want to go against their wishes, but I'm reluctant to support anything at this time without more facts."

Stoner, too, doesn't like the possibility that there could be one addition after another as the school moves through the years to meet its short-range needs.

Plager said, however, that whether there is an addition to the present building or a new building he would not recommend it be any larger than to accommodate a total of 700 law students. The present Law School enrollment is about 600 students.

"Whether the Indiana Bar Association can absorb that kind of an increase, I don't know. They want to tighten it up," said IU Trustee Harry

Gonso, who also is an attorney.

The Architectural Committee agreed to place a proposal before the full IU Board of Trustees to seek planning money from the Indiana Higher Education Commission.

Clarence Long, committee chairman, said the planning would be based on the Law School's present program with a 16 percent increase in enrollment.

In addition to Stoner and Long, IU Trustee President Donald C. Danielson also is a member of the Architectural Committee.

Others who serve on the committee are IU Vice President Ed Williams, Treasurer Jack Mulholland, Vice President Glenn Irwin, Casati and Terry Clapacs, director of IU Physical Facilities.

IU President Ryan and IU executive vice president, W. George Pinnell, serve as ex-officio members.

Another matter considered by the committee Thursday afternoon was concerned with construction of a mini-stadium to seat about 11,000 persons and construction of 18 clay tennis courts on the Indianapolis campus.

Irwin, who is chief executive officer of the Indianapolis campus, said the city would construct the courts and stadium, which would then be managed by the university, if the IU Board of Trustees approves.

The development is planned south of the Indianapolis Law School and west of Military Park. After a 30-year period, the facilities would become the property of the university.

Without the development, Irwin said the city will lose the National Clay Court Tennis Tournament.

The IU Architectural Committee agreed to present the proposal to the Board of Trustees.